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NATIONAL NEWS

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Making sense of the world

THE WEEK Junior

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

ELECTION 2022

A look at the winners, the surprises, and the races that are still undecided

p2 and p4

DID YOU KNOW?

- Many races for Congress were very close.
- Governors in several states made history.
- Voter turnout among young people was high.

The US Capitol building, where Congress meets

A young representative

Max Frost

Maxwell Alejandro Frost, age 25, made history as the first member of Gen Z (people born between 1996–2012) to win a seat in the House of Representatives. Frost is a Democrat who will represent Florida's 10th district. Two of his top issues are providing health care for all Americans and ending gun violence.

Close races in midterm elections

Millions of Americans voted in the midterm elections on November 8, deciding hundreds of races across the US. Many of the races were extremely close, reflecting a clear divide between Republicans and Democrats (the two major political parties) in the nation.

Why are the midterms important?

The midterm elections happen halfway through a President's four-year term and determine which party controls one or both parts of Congress (the branch of government that makes laws). Congress decides which laws to consider, vote on, and send to President Joe Biden for his signature. That means the party in charge can determine what Biden can accomplish during the last two years of his term. The Senate also approves the President's nominations for judges and important government posts. Political experts say the midterms serve as a statement on how the first two years of a President's term have gone and what kind of leadership voters are looking for. The current President's party usually loses many seats in Congress in the midterm elections, but that didn't happen this year.

Herschel Walker (left) and Senator Raphael Warnock

What happened in the House?

The US House of Representatives (one half of Congress) has 435 seats, all of which are up for election every two years. In 2020, Democrats gained control of the House, winning 222 seats to Republicans' 213. When *The Week Junior* went to press on November 15, control of the House had not yet been determined. Democrats made a strong showing, unexpectedly winning seats in Ohio, Texas, and North Carolina. But many experts predicted Republicans would wind up with control of the House. Republicans had won 217 seats compared to 204 for Democrats, and votes in the remaining 14 races were still being counted.

What about the Senate?

The Senate (other half of Congress) has 100 seats that were divided 50–50 for the past two years. Senators serve six-year terms that do not all end at the same time, and 34 seats were on the ballot in this election. On November 13, Democrat Catherine Cortez Masto defeated Republican Adam Laxalt in Nevada. This win gave Democrats a total of 50 seats. Republicans had 49, and one seat in Georgia was still undecided. In that contest, current Senator Raphael Warnock, a Democrat, will face Republican Herschel Walker in a runoff on December 6. A runoff is an election held between the top two vote-getters when neither candidate receives more than 50% of the vote in the general election. Even if Walker wins and each party has 50 seats, Democrats will be in control because Vice President Kamala Harris, a Democrat, can cast a tie-breaking vote in the Senate.

How was voter turnout?

Overall voter turnout was slightly lower than in 2018, which had the highest midterm turnout in the past 100 years. In some states, however, voter turnout was higher than in 2018. Researchers said the 2022 election had the second highest turnout among voters under age 30 in at least the past 30 years. At the University of Michigan, some students waited in line until 2 am to cast a vote. Early voters also set a record this year: More than 44 million people voted ahead of Election Day, either by mailing in a ballot or voting early in person.

What will happen next?

Vote counting will continue in undecided races, with most winners expected to be determined within days. In Georgia, Warnock and Walker will continue to campaign before the runoff election. The next Congress will be sworn in on January 3.

Progress in fight against Covid-19

On November 9, the World Health Organization (WHO, the agency responsible for international public health) reported that global deaths caused by Covid-19 have dropped by nearly 90% since February. Officials were pleased but said there was still more work to be done.

The announcement was made at a virtual news conference from WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said about 9,400 deaths were linked to Covid-19 in the week from October 31 to November 6. In February, weekly reported deaths were above 75,000. Reported cases were also down 15% from the previous week.

Ghebreyesus called the numbers a "cause for optimism" but asked governments, communities, and people to continue fighting the virus. "Almost 10,000 deaths a week is 10,000 too many for a disease that can be prevented and treated," he said. Officials noted that Covid-19 testing remains low on a global scale, and there is a wide gap in vaccination rates between rich and poor countries.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

One of the statues

DID YOU KNOW?
More than 2,000 years ago, Etruscans built the first walls and sewer system in Rome, Italy.

Rare statues fill gaps in history

Archaeologists excavating a historic site in Italy discovered more than 24 ancient statues that were preserved in mud and hot water. They are about 2,300 years old and help fill in the story of the ancient Etruscan and Roman civilizations.

The statues were partially submerged in a network of public baths constructed by the Etruscans near Siena, about 140 miles north of Rome. The Etruscans were Italy's first great civilization, a people that thrived along the Mediterranean Sea from the 8th to the 3rd century BCE. Part of their culture involved soaking in natural hot springs, called spas or baths, which they believed to have healing powers.

The Romans, one of history's most powerful civilizations, eventually conquered the Etruscans. But the statues have inscriptions in Latin (the language of the Romans) and Etruscan, which indicates that the two groups lived together for a time. After the Roman Empire rose to power, it destroyed much of the evidence of Etruscans' existence. That makes artifacts like these rare.

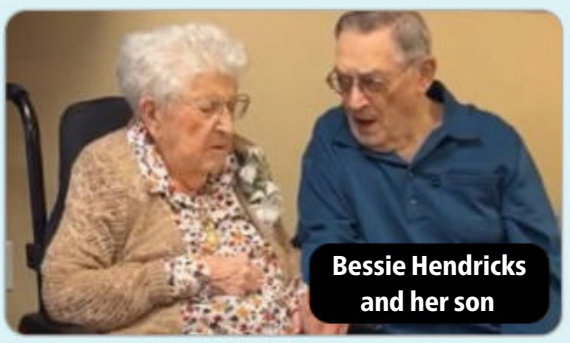
Several of the statues are complete figures of ancient gods about 3 feet tall. Others are body parts that were presented as offerings to the gods by sick people. Experts also found thousands of coins, which visitors threw into the springs for luck.

"It is certainly one of the most significant discoveries of bronzes in the history of the ancient Mediterranean," said an official at the Italian culture ministry. The team of archaeologists will now start to restore and study the artifacts.

IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

A MILESTONE BIRTHDAY

Bessie Hendricks of Iowa celebrated her 115th birthday on November 7, making her the oldest person in the US. A former teacher, she has lived through 21 Presidents. Her son Leon Hendricks said, "Family came first to Mom. Always."


Bessie Hendricks and her son

The twins

WELCOMING TWINS

Twin Asian elephants were born at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo in Syracuse, New York. Twin elephants are rare, and this is the first known successful twin elephant birth in the US. The zoo called the calves a "miracle" and said it will hold a competition to name them. Their sex is not yet known.

GIVING AWAY A CROWN

When Florida high school senior James Verpaele was named homecoming king, he presented the crown to fellow nominee Parks Finney. Finney, who has a disability that affects how he thinks and speaks, is known for cheering on his classmates, who agreed that he deserved the win. "We all love him," Verpaele said.

Parks Finney (left) and James Verpaele

ON THE COVER: GETTY IMAGES (3); ON THIS PAGE: JACOPO TABOLLI/UNIVERSITA PER STRANIERI DI SIENA/EPA; GETTY IMAGES; KCCI; OFFICE OF ONONDAGA COUNTY EXECUTIVE RYAN MCMAHON; AMY FINNEY; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3); MAXWELL ALEJANDRO FROST FOR CONGRESS

From governor to President

A total of 17 governors have gone on to become President. The first was Thomas Jefferson. Other examples include Franklin D. Roosevelt, Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush. Being governor can offer an elected official solid experience in running a government and working with lawmakers.

Governors chosen in many states

Voters in 36 states cast ballots for their governor (a state's top leader) on Election Day, November 8. Voters delivered historic wins in several states, and enthusiasm was particularly high in states with tight races, such as New York and Wisconsin.

What happened?

A total of 18 Democrats and 18 Republicans were elected governor. Of those, 28 were incumbents, meaning they were the current governor of the state and will return for another term in office. Most victories were called on election night. But in Arizona, all the votes for the governor's race were not counted until November 14, when Democrat Katie Hobbs was declared the winner over Republican Kari Lake. And although the decision for Alaska's governor was still being determined when *The Week Junior* went to press, Republican Mike Dunleavy had a clear lead over the other candidates.

What were some historic wins?

Democrat Wes Moore was elected the first Black governor of Maryland and will become the third Black governor in US history when he is sworn in. Republican Sarah Huckabee Sanders, a former White House press secretary, became the first woman to be elected governor of Arkansas. Maura Healey, a Democrat, became the first female governor of Massachusetts. She and Democrat Tina Kotek, who was chosen as the new governor of Oregon, will be the nation's first governors who are openly lesbian.

What else happened?

In Florida, Governor Ron DeSantis, a Republican, won his race for reelection by more than 19%. His big victory means he could become a candidate for President in 2024, political experts said. Democrat Tony Evers was reelected in a tight race in Wisconsin. In New York, Democrat Kathy Hochul, who took over as governor in 2021 when previous governor Andrew Cuomo stepped down, won election to her first full term.

What will happen next?

Current governors will remain in office for the rest of 2022. Those who are departing will finish up business and assist with the transition to the next governor. Newly elected governors will be sworn into office in early January 2023.

WORD OF THE WEEK

SPA

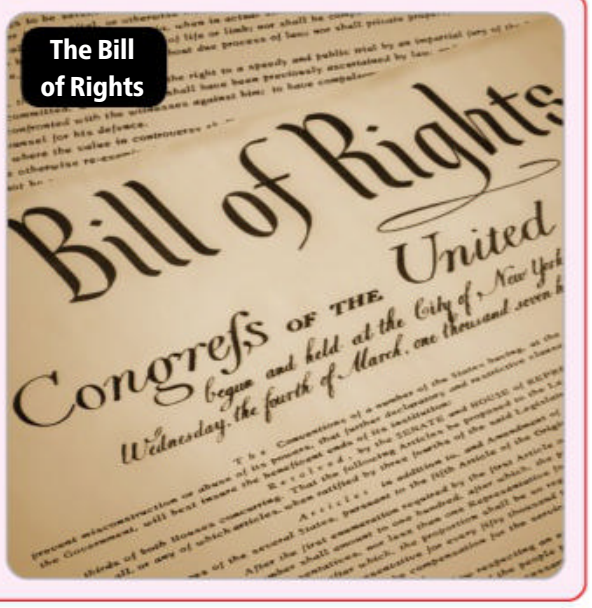
Ancient statues have been found in a spa in Italy. The word "spa" comes from the name of a town in Belgium, which has been celebrated since ancient times for the healing properties of its mineral springs—naturally occurring water containing minerals. Its name was later given to any place that had a mineral spring or offered health treatments.

THE WEEK IN HISTORY

November 20, 1789

First state to ratify the Bill of Rights

On November 20, 1789, New Jersey became the first state to ratify (approve) the Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights is the first 10 amendments made to the Constitution, the highest US law, and includes some of the nation's fundamental rights, such as freedom of speech and freedom of religion. The amendments took effect when Virginia became the 10th state to ratify them in 1791.



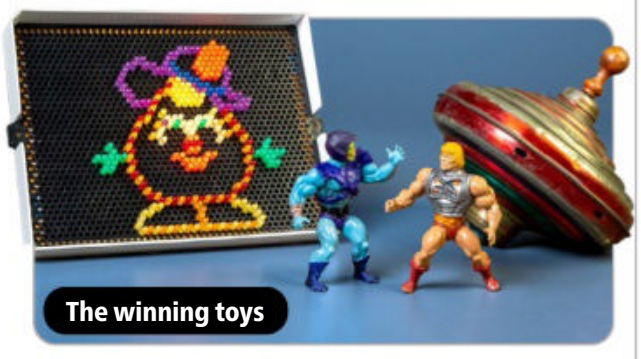
Free meals in Colorado schools

On Election Day, people in Colorado voted in favor of providing free breakfast and lunch to students in kindergarten through 12th grade. The ballot measure passed 55% to 45% and will ensure that all of Colorado's nearly one million public school students have access to healthy food. The measure will go into effect in the 2023–24 school year. Ashley Wheeland of the group Hunger Free Colorado called the decision a "massive victory."

Using an all-terrain track chair

Parks get all-terrain wheelchairs

Georgia has made all-terrain wheelchairs, which can go off-road to explore uneven ground, available for rent at 11 of its parks and outdoor areas. Another all-terrain track chair has been made available at a South Dakota park. The two states are part of a trend to provide broader park access to people with mobility issues. In 2017, Colorado was the first state to offer the chairs, followed by Michigan.



The winning toys

Hall of Fame adds three toys

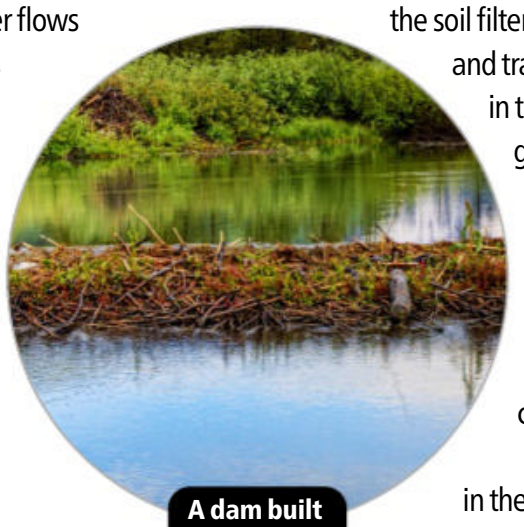
Lite-Brite, Masters of the Universe action figures, and the spinning top have been inducted into the National Toy Hall of Fame in Rochester, New York. Judges chose from 12 finalists. Lite-Brite was honored for inspiring creativity. Masters of the Universe figurines were recognized for encouraging imaginary play. The top was cited as one of the world's oldest toys, enjoyed for thousands of years.

A beaver

Beavers protect against climate change

As the Earth warms and droughts (long periods without rain) become more common, experts are concerned about the future of America's waterways. But in the western US, a surprising protector has emerged to help: beavers. According to a new study, the rodents are keeping the nation's rivers from feeling the effects of a changing climate.

During droughts, less water flows through rivers and streams. As a result, nutrients (such as nitrogen) and contaminants (like bacteria) can build up to dangerous levels. This lowers the quality of the water available to plants, animals, and humans. High nitrogen levels are especially harmful because they encourage the growth of algae—plant-like organisms that can keep water from getting oxygen.



A dam built by beavers

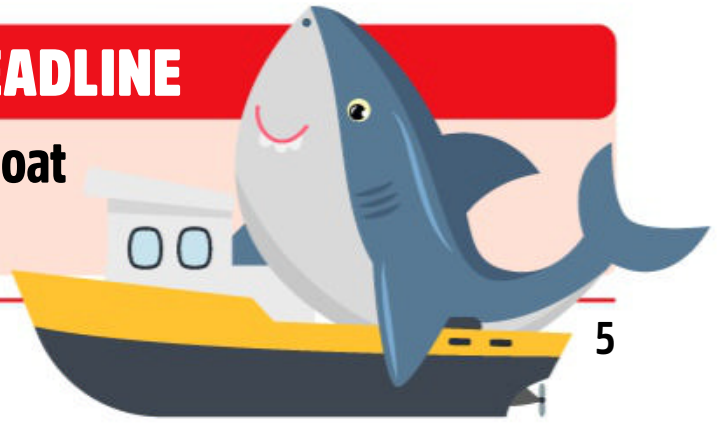
Christian Dewey, a researcher from Stanford University, was looking at water quality along the East River in central Colorado when "completely by luck, a beaver decided to build a dam at our study site," he said. Beavers commonly build these structures from sticks, rocks, and mud to give themselves a safe place to live.

The dam the beavers built along the East River pushed water into the nearby soil. Dewey and the other researchers decided to study the effects this would have on the water. They found that the soil filtered out the contaminants and transformed excess nitrogen in the water into a harmless gas. By the time the water reentered the river, the dam had boosted removal of unwanted nitrogen by 44%. This increased water quality more than climate conditions decreased it.

Hotter and drier conditions in the western US have allowed the beaver population to increase, so more beaver dams could be built in the coming years. The study declared that by helping nature restore balance in waterways, the beaver is "a positive counter to climate change."

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Big shark lands on fishing boat off New Zealand coast" *UPI*



ALAMY; GETTY IMAGES (4); AIMEE COPELAND; COURTESY OF THE STRONG, ROCHESTER, NEW YORK; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (6)

Around the world

An octopus in British Columbia

British Columbia, Canada
Octopus hugs diver

A Canadian teacher, Andrea Humphreys, received a hug from an octopus while diving in the Pacific Ocean. When Humphreys began taking photos of the octopus, it turned toward her and wrapped its tentacles around her. It then stayed close to Humphreys and played with her camera. Humphreys caught the encounter on video, which went viral. She told *The Guardian* newspaper that the hug was "magical."

Dakar, Senegal
Activist gets creative to fight pollution

Environmental activist Modou Fall, known as "Plastic Man," is raising awareness of plastic pollution. Fall walks a heavily littered beach wearing a costume made from trash, with a sign in French on his chest that says "no to plastic bags." His costume is inspired by the Kankurang, a figure in Senegal's and neighboring Gambia's culture who protects people from evil. Plastic is "a poison for health, for the ocean, for the population," he said.

Fishermen protesting

Peru
Communities speak out against oil spills

Leaders from Peru's Indigenous people (descendants of people who were in Peru before European settlers arrived) have asked banks to stop funding Peru's oil company, Petroperú. The company is owned by the Peruvian government and is responsible for oil spills that have contaminated water sources close to Indigenous communities and fishing waters.

Ljubljana, Slovenia
First female president elected

Nataša Pirc Musar has won Slovenia's presidential election, making her the first woman to be the country's head of state. She won 53.8% of the vote against Anže Logar, of the Slovenian Democratic Party. As president, Pirc Musar is in charge of the armed forces and nominates the country's top officials.

Nataša Pirc Musar

Israel
Sentence found on ancient lice comb

Researchers have found what is thought to be the oldest known sentence written in the earliest alphabet, engraved on a lice comb made from elephant tusks. The comb was discovered in Lachish, an ancient city now in Israel, in 2017, and researchers recently found that it features symbols from an alphabet about 3,800 years old. The sentence reads, "May this tusk root out the lice of the hair and the beard."

The comb

Around the world

Women are no longer allowed in gyms.

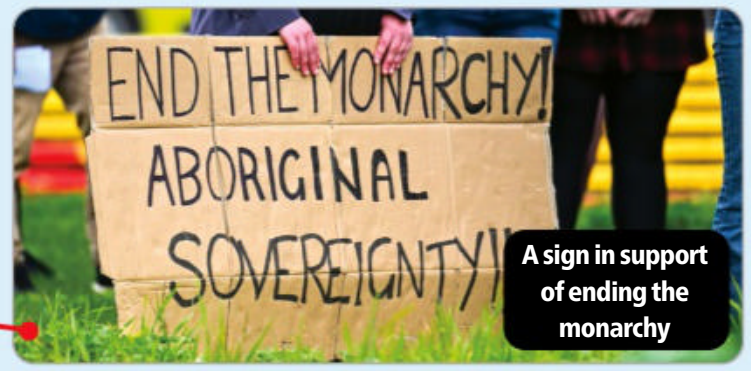
Kabul, Afghanistan
Women banned from gyms

Women in Afghanistan have been banned from gyms and public parks. The Taliban, a military and political group that took control of Afghanistan in 2021, has introduced the ban because orders for men and women to stay apart in parks and gyms were being ignored. In a video, an Afghan woman said, "Do we not have the right to anything at all?"

US President Joe Biden (left) with Indonesia's president, Joko Widodo

Bali, Indonesia
World leaders meet for G20 summit

Leaders from around the world gathered in Bali, Indonesia, on November 15 for the G20 summit (meeting). The G20 is a group of 19 countries (including the UK, the US, and China), plus the European Union (EU, a group of 27 nations, mostly in Europe). The leaders discussed the war in Ukraine, rising costs of food and fuel, and climate change (the long-term changes in weather patterns, largely due to human activities).



A sign in support of ending the monarchy

Australia
Nation plans vote on monarchy

Australia's government has announced that it plans to hold a referendum (public vote) on whether to keep a monarch as head of state. King Charles III is currently Australia's head of state. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has previously said that he wants Australia to become a republic (form of government in which citizens vote for their representatives) and replace the monarch with an elected head of state.

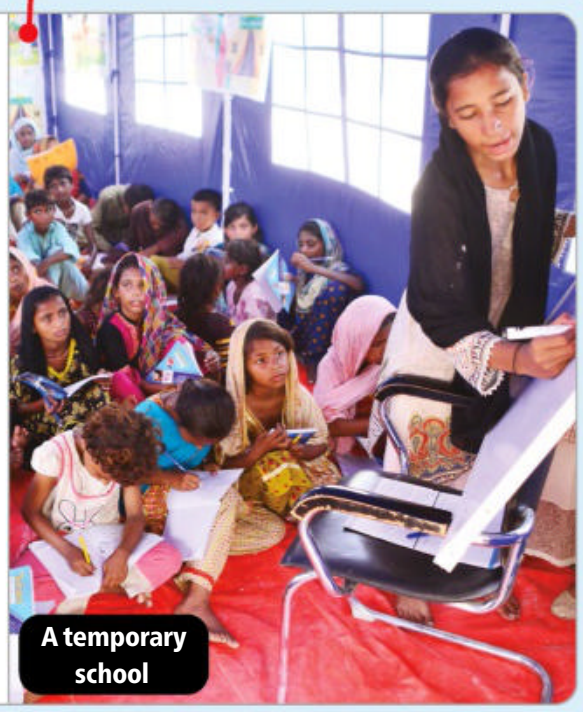
One of the sets

New Zealand
TV shows create mountains of waste

Investigators found that TV shows and films made in New Zealand, such as *The Lord of the Rings*, have left behind mountains of waste. The waste was created by set pieces (like fake forests), which are often buried and do not degrade naturally. The shows also produce carbon dioxide (a gas that heats the planet). A worker on one show told *The Guardian*, "It's appalling."

Pakistan
Schools stay closed

The heavy flooding in Pakistan earlier this year, which covered one third of the country, has left 2 million children without access to schools. The floods damaged nearly 27,000 school buildings. UNICEF, an organization that helps children around the world, has set up 500 temporary learning centers. Countries such as the US, the UK, and China have given Pakistan money to help cope with the impact of the floods.


A temporary school

GETTY IMAGES (8); DAFNA GAZIT/ISRAEL ANTIQUITIES AUTHORITY; PRIME VIDEO

Should schools bring back cursive writing?

Some states are teaching this classic writing style again, but others say it's outdated.

What you need to know

- **Cursive writing, also known as script or longhand, is a flowing style of penmanship with rounded, connected letters.**
- **Cursive dates back to ancient Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans.**
- **In the US in the 1700s, professional "penmen" were hired to write important documents, such as the US Constitution, in cursive.**
- **In 2010, new national educational standards said schools no longer had to teach cursive writing.**

Students used to spend hours practicing their cursive writing, mastering just the right slant, swoops, and loops so they could earn a high penmanship grade. But over the past couple of decades, technology started to take over, and computers and other devices became common in modern classrooms. Typing skills mostly replaced the need for handwriting, and if students needed to write by hand, they used print. Over the years, cursive nearly disappeared. Today, however, 21 US states have added it back into their lesson plans and more are considering doing the same. What do you think? Should schools bring back cursive writing?

Yes—it's more than just tradition

Cursive writing is traditional, but it also has other benefits. Many kids write faster in cursive than in print because they don't have to lift up the pen or pencil. That lets them get more done in less time. Writing in cursive uses more of the small muscles in hands and wrists, which helps kids strengthen their fine motor skills. Studies have shown that writing in cursive improves people's thinking, language skills, and memory, which means students will learn more by writing this way. Plus, people who don't know cursive writing can't read things that are written that way, whether it's a note from a grandparent or the US Constitution.

No—cursive is too old-fashioned

Cursive is so outdated that students will spend more time learning it than using it. The school day is long enough already. Would teachers have to spend less time on math or history to fit in cursive writing? That doesn't seem worth it. Kids can type all their work on a computer and either print it out or turn it in online. They're better off developing those digital skills, which will be much more useful once they're out of school and working. And if they absolutely have to write by hand, they can print. Life just isn't that formal anymore. Why waste class time on such an old-fashioned skill that kids won't use?

YES Three reasons why schools should bring back cursive writing

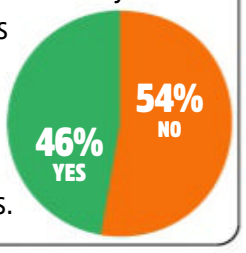
1. **Writing in cursive can be faster than writing in print and helps students develop their fine motor skills.**
2. **Studies show that writing in cursive can benefit the brain, which helps students learn and remember more.**
3. **Knowing cursive ensures you can read things that are written that way.**

NO Three reasons why schools should not bring back cursive writing

1. **There are only so many hours in the school day, and teaching cursive isn't a good use of class time.**
2. **There are other, easier ways to write, such as by using a computer. If kids have to write by hand, they can print.**
3. **Life is more casual now, and writing in cursive is an outdated idea.**

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if pumpkin pie is better than apple pie. It turns out your taste in pie is nearly a tie: 54% of you said no, and 46% said yes.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think schools should bring back cursive writing or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

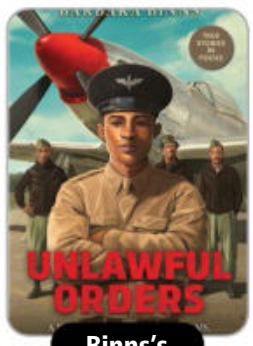
The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

GETTY IMAGES

Telling extraordinary stories

Author Barbara Binns has a writing career that she never expected.

From a young age, Barbara Binns's passions were reading and doing research. With her latest book, *Unlawful Orders: A Portrait of Dr. James B. Williams, Tuskegee Airman, Surgeon, and Activist*, she combined them to write a biography that captures American history.



Binns's new book

Unlawful Orders tells the story of James "JB" Williams (1919–2016), a surgeon who served with the Tuskegee Airmen, the first Black military pilots, during World War II (1939–1945). While at the Freeman Airfield base in Iowa, he stood up to racist practices through peaceful protest, which contributed to the desegregation of the US armed forces. He was also the physician for the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Binns lives in Chicago, Illinois, where she grew up and where most of her stories take place. She began her career as a clinical chemist at the University of Chicago Hospitals and later became a computer analyst for AT&T. Upon retiring in 2008, she wrote several books for young readers.

She found her current book's subject while researching James's mother, Clara Belle Williams, for another project. James had also lived in Chicago, in a neighborhood not far from where Binns grew up, but she hadn't heard about him. "I [found] myself wondering if I ever walked past him on the street and didn't realize I was in the presence of greatness," Binns told *The Week Junior.* She said she would have loved having him as a role model during her childhood.

That's one reason she wrote *Unlawful Orders,* she said—for children who need a hero, someone who looks ordinary but did extraordinary things through quiet but persistent actions.

Barbara Binns

DID YOU KNOW?
From 1941 to 1946, about 1,000 Black pilots were trained at a military base in Tuskegee, Alabama.

Birder wins award

After raising a flock of chickens at age 7, Zita Robertson's passion for birdwatching bloomed. The now 13-year-old from Missouri is having her best year of birding yet. Her goal this year was to see 175 species—and she had already seen 220 by October. Also this year, the American Birding Association (ABA) named her the 2022 Young Birder of the Year for her age group. Robertson remains humble: She told *The Washington Post* that an important lesson she's learned from birding is that she's not always right.

Zita Robertson

Lin-Manuel Miranda

Returning to the stage

Actor, filmmaker, and composer Lin-Manuel Miranda, best known as the creator of the award-winning musical *Hamilton*, is headed back to Broadway with a new project. Most recently, he wrote songs for the hit Disney animated film *Encanto* and wrapped up work on the live-action remake of *The Little Mermaid*. Now he's writing and composing a new musical, titled *New York, New York*. Inspired by the 1977 movie of the same name, the story centers on a young singer and jazz musician with big dreams in New York City. It is set to open on Broadway in 2023.

OVERHEARD

"Everything tastes better on toast."
Prue Leith, South African chef, author, and a judge on *The Great British Bake Off*, age 82, on the inspiration behind her latest cookbook, *Bliss on Toast.*

COURTESY OF ROBERT LTD; COURTESY OF PUBLISHER; COURTESY OF KORNELIA ROBERTSON; GETTY IMAGES (2)

AMAZING AMAZON
The Amazon rainforest is home to at least 10% of all animal and plant species on Earth.

Tiger populations are on the rise in India.

US species successes

In the US, conservation projects have reintroduced species that almost disappeared from the wild. Besides the bald eagle, other species in America that have been saved include the California condor, the swift fox, the Karner blue butterfly, the trumpeter swan, and the Louisiana black bear.

A swift fox

Wildlife report calls for action

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) has released its Living Planet Report, which found that the Earth's wildlife populations have fallen by 69% in the past 50 years.

The report is produced every two years to show how the natural world is changing so governments, businesses, and conservationists understand what needs to be done to protect the Earth. The team looks at several factors. One is the Living Planet Index (LPI), which examines how wildlife populations have changed over time. A total of 5,268 species across the world are tracked, including birds, fish, insects, and mammals.

A bald eagle

The change in wildlife varies around the world. South America and the Caribbean were the most affected. In these areas, the average wildlife populations have dropped by 94% over 50 years. Central Asia and Europe had the smallest decline, with an 18% drop.

The WWF says the changes are caused by human activity. One of the biggest threats facing wildlife is the number of acres of forest that are being chopped down so that the land can be used for farming instead.

To find the best way to protect animals worldwide, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is studying how easy or hard it will be to help different species. It has so far found that the populations of several animals, including the pink pigeon and the Sumatran rhino, can be boosted.

While some news from the Living Planet Report is worrisome, there was good news, too. The numbers of many species have risen around the world because of people's efforts to protect them. In India, the number of tigers has nearly doubled since 2009. And in 2020, there were more than 50 sightings of the critically endangered Antarctic blue whale.

In the US, conservation efforts in recent decades have helped to save several species, including the bald eagle, which was removed from the endangered species list in 2007. For more examples, see the box above.

PLACE OF THE WEEK

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Arizona

This national monument in Arizona is located within the Sonoran Desert, which spans more than 330,000 acres and is one of the few places in the US where you can see the country's largest cacti. This "green desert" gets its name from the organ pipe cactus, whose branches mimic the musical instrument. Visitors can explore 31 cactus species and wildlfowers through the monument's many hikes, including the Nature Trail, a short and accessible paved trail. The area is home to the Sonoyta mud turtle, desert bighorn, and birds such as the Gila woodpecker and cactus wren.

A Gila woodpecker

DID YOU KNOW?
The oldest goldfish on record lived to be 49 years old.

Surprise: Goldfish do remember.

Goldfish found to have good memories

Goldfish have a reputation for having no memory or very little memory—up to three seconds. Scientists say this is a myth, however, and a team at Oxford University in the UK has conducted a new study to prove goldfish do have good recall (memory).

The researchers examined whether they could train goldfish to measure swim distances. They placed nine goldfish in a narrow fish tank patterned with black and white vertical stripes. On their first swim down the tank, the researchers gave the goldfish an external cue—a researcher dunked their hand in the tank and waved—to turn the fish back to the start. There, they were rewarded with a treat. The goldfish were then prompted to swim the same distance, this time without the help of any external cues.

Of the nine fish in the experiment, eight fish correctly swam the same distance without a researcher's cue, remembering the point to turn back to receive their reward. The scientists concluded that the goldfish memorized the external stripe patterns in the tank to determine the correct distance.

Animal of the week: Maned sloth

Researchers have found that there is one more species of sloth than they thought. The maned sloth, which has a head that looks like a coconut, has just been divided into two species: southern maned sloths and northern maned sloths.

- **LIFE SPAN:** Up to 12 years in the wild
- **HABITAT:** Forests in Brazil
- **SIZE:** About 9 pounds
- **DIET:** Leaves from both trees and vines
- **FUN FACTS:** Wild sloths sleep 8 to 10 hours a day and have favorite sleep spots.

Good week / Bad week

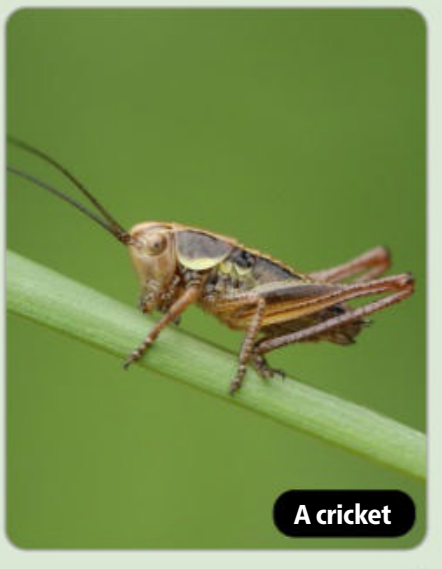
Lions
Nine lions—seven adults and two cubs—have been moved to the Wild Animal Sanctuary in Colorado after being rescued from Ukraine. Officials at the sanctuary said it was part of the largest rescue of lions from a war zone ever.

North American right whales
The population of North American right whales declined to an estimated 340 in 2021, down from 348 in 2020. While the decline was smaller than it has been in recent years, the population is significantly down from 481 whales in 2011.

ASK A ZOOKEEPER: "Why do crickets chirp and only at night?" Anni, 13, Oklahoma

Andy Snider
Curator,
Brookfield Zoo

Crickets "chirp," or call to other crickets, by rubbing their front wings together at night because there are fewer predators around to hear them. But some crickets call during the day as well. Only male crickets call. The chirping sound you hear is meant to attract a female mate.



A cricket

Do you have a question for a zookeeper? Send it to *hello@theweekjunior.com*. Find out more about Brookfield Zoo in Illinois at czs.org/BrookfieldZoo.

GETTY IMAGES (5); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (5)

A beloved cartoonist's

Charles Schulz drew inspiration from real life for his famous comic strip.

Charles Schulz, born 100 years ago this month, created a collection of characters and stories that has been printed in at least 2,600 newspapers in 75 countries. Welcome to the world of *Peanuts*.

Charles Schulz

No adults allowed

The *Peanuts* universe started as a comic strip that ran in newspapers from 1950 to 2000. It features a lovable cast of kids led by Charlie Brown, an unlucky but determined boy whom Schulz called "a caricature of the average person." His bossy but resourceful friend Lucy runs a psychiatry booth and is known to hold a football for Charlie Brown to kick but then she pulls it away. Her younger brother, Linus, is smart and kind, carries a blanket, and is Charlie Brown's best friend. A gaggle of other children and animals appear, too—like Charlie Brown's wise pet dog, Snoopy—but no grown-ups. Schulz once said, "Adults are not needed in the *Peanuts* strip."

How Sparky got his spark

Schulz was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on November 26, 1922, to a comics-loving family. He and his father, who worked as a barber, read the "funnies" section of the newspaper together every Sunday morning. Schulz's uncle nicknamed him "Sparky" after the horse Spark Plug from the *Barney Google* comic strip. The young Schulz once said that all he wanted to do was "draw funny pictures," and after graduating from high school, he went on to study cartooning. He took a break to serve in the Army from 1943 to 1945, then began working as an art school instructor and freelance cartoonist. In 1947, Schulz began drawing a comic strip for his local paper. He called it *Li'l Folks*.

WOW!
Peanuts may be the longest story ever told by one person. Charles Schulz drew and wrote about 18,000 comic strips by himself.

Based on real life

Charlie Brown

The main character—a "lovable loser" who cares deeply about his friends and family—was named after a co-worker of Schulz's and mostly modeled on Schulz himself.

Snoopy

No ordinary beagle, Snoopy is a writer, art collector, and "Flying Ace." Schulz's childhood dogs included Snooky, a Boston bull terrier, and Spike, a pointer mix. Snoopy was said to be mainly inspired by Spike.

***Peanuts* was first known as *Li'l Folks*.**

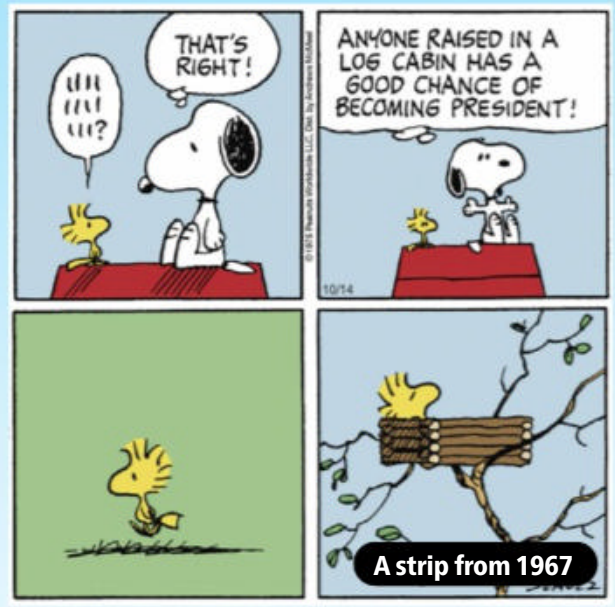
ALAMY (2); GETTY IMAGES; PEANUTS WORLDWIDE LLC (2); COURTESY OF WILDBRAIN/APPLE TV+ (7)

colorful world

WITTY WORDS
Charles Schulz used many words that start with B, such as "beagle" and "blockhead," because he thought they sounded funny.

DID YOU KNOW?
Snoopy's doghouse is magically bigger inside. It has a recreation room and can fit dozens of objects, including a pool table.

The *Peanuts* gang on the big screen in 2015



A strip from 1967

The rise of *Peanuts*

After three years of *Li'l Folks*, Schulz relaunched the strip with a new name: *Peanuts*. It was published in seven US newspapers, and America loved it. Within 10 years, the comic had been picked up by hundreds of newspapers and won a Reuben award, a top honor for cartoonists. Schulz continued to draw regular *Peanuts* strips for 50 years. His characters began to reach even more people when *Peanuts* took to the screen, for a total of 46 animated specials, five movies, and a TV series. Some of the animated specials became holiday classics, including *A Charlie Brown Christmas* (1965), *It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown* (1966), and *A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving* (1973). Meanwhile, hundreds of *Peanuts* books have been published.

Peanuts TV specials

Leaving a legacy

Schulz's work has had a lasting influence. Over the years, *Peanuts* characters have appeared on countless toys, clothes, calendars, and more than one billion greeting cards. Snoopy has even earned a role as a safety mascot for NASA, the US space agency. And this year, the US Postal Service released a set of stamps with *Peanuts* characters to honor Schulz's 100th birthday. Schulz's last strip was published one day after his death in February 2000—but, like Charlie Brown with the football, the *Peanuts* gang keeps coming back for more.

Franklin

A teacher, Harriet Glickman, wrote Schulz in 1968 to suggest he add a Black character. Charlie Brown soon met Franklin, a friendly, active boy. It was an early example of integration among Black and white characters.

Peppermint Patty

Schulz modeled this character after a favorite cousin named Patricia. She loves sports and time under the "thinking tree." She affectionately calls Charlie Brown "Chuck," and her baseball team regularly beats his.

DID YOU KNOW?
Dormice double their body weight before hibernation, then lose the extra weight as they hibernate.

Would human hibernation be a good idea?

Hibernating could be good for humans too

Have you ever wished you could snuggle down under your blankets and stay there for the whole winter? Well, it turns out that humans may be able to hibernate like bears and other animals after all—and it could be good for us.

Hibernation is when animals go into a cave, tree hollow, or other cozy location and turn down some of the functions in their body. This helps them save energy when it's cold and there isn't much food to be found. When an animal is hibernating, its breathing slows and its body temperature drops. Grizzly and black bears don't eat, drink, or go to the bathroom when they're hibernating, while animals like bats and hedgehogs sometimes wake up to find food or move to another spot.

Black bears like this one hibernate.

Although humans don't hibernate, scientists think we might have the ability to. Sandy Martin, of the University of Colorado, says it is likely that the common ancestor of all mammals, including humans, was a hibernator. This means our bodies could still have the tools to allow us to hibernate.

One of those tools could be a natural chemical in our bodies called adenosine, which sends messages to the brain to make mammals feel sleepy. Domenico Tupone from Oregon Health and Science University discovered that after boosting adenosine in rats' brains, their core body temperature fell—just like it falls in a hibernating animal. As Tupone pointed out, "Rats are similar to humans in terms of the internal circuitry of the brain. What we suspect is that this circuit is also present in humans, but we have lost the ability to trigger it."

Researchers are trying to determine how to harness the power of hibernation to help humans. It's possible that hibernating could protect people from conditions such as heart disease, Alzheimer's disease, and strokes. Doctors already deliberately lower people's body temperature to treat heart attacks. When a type of squirrel called a 13-lined ground squirrel (see box) hibernates, its brain is cleared of the same harmful chemicals that cause Alzheimer's in humans.

Hibernation could also help us live longer. A recent study of bats and marmots shows that when they hibernate, they age more slowly. Hibernation might even help astronauts travel further into space because they wouldn't need so much food on very long journeys.

A squirrel's hibernation habits

One of the squirrels

The 13-lined ground squirrel (named for the stripes on its back) is one of the most studied hibernators. They hibernate in underground burrows from August to March and can go up to six months without food and water. The squirrels drop their body temperature from 98.6° F to about 1 to 3 degrees above the temperature in the burrow. They can also slow their heart rate from 200 to 350 beats per minute to about five, and they go from about 50 breaths per minute to about four.

The squirrels eat a lot through the fall, piling on a tenth of an ounce of fat per day. The important nutrients in their bodies get recycled as they hibernate, and they can lose up to a third of their body weight during the winter.

How prehistoric mammals cared for their young

Ancient mammals cared for their young just as we do, a new study has found. The research focused on multituberculates, or multis: squirrel-like animals that lived from about 170 million to 35 million years ago.

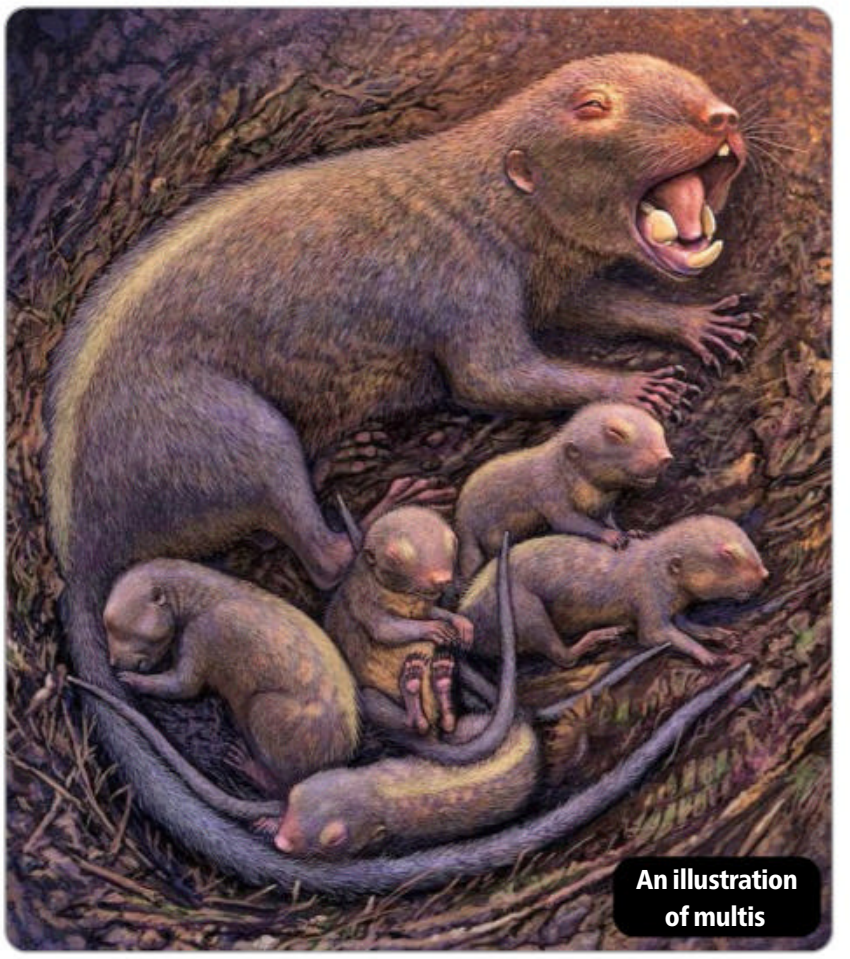
Mammals reproduce and nurture their young in three ways. The earliest mammals most likely laid eggs, as the duckbilled platypus does today. Later, some mammals started giving birth and carrying their babies in a pouch on their bellies. This marsupial style is still common for animals such as kangaroos and opossums.

SMALL BUT MIGHTY
For about 145 million years, the largest mammals were the size of a cat.

Eventually, some mammals became placental, meaning they began to have longer pregnancies, nurse their babies for a short time, and let the babies become independent quickly. Humans and most mammals today are placental.

Scientists used to think that the earlier methods mostly died out as placental mammals became more successful. Based on when they lived, multis should have been marsupials. But a team studied the skeletons of multis and came to a surprising conclusion: Their bones matched the bone growth pattern of placental animals.

This shows that young multis—which lived among dinosaurs—grew up in the same style as humans, rodents, and other modern placental mammals. The researchers now believe that our way of caregiving could go back millions of years—possibly even to the last ancestor we shared with these ancient mammals.


An illustration of multis

The backpack made from plant-based material

Designing a sustainable backpack

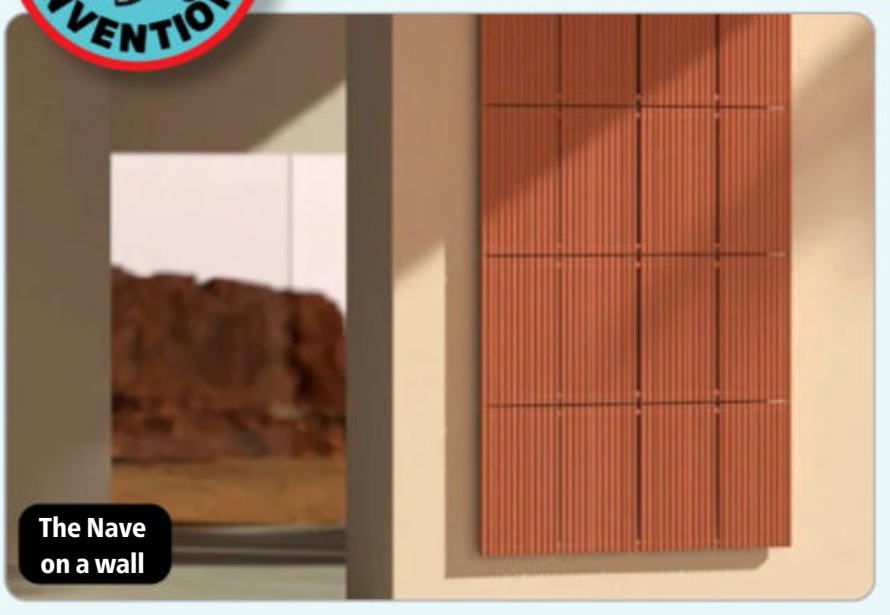
Most young people think sustainable (not having a negative impact on the environment) fashion is more important than looking cool, according to new research from the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) in the UK.

The IET asked people ages 5 to 13 what clothes and accessories they hoped to have in the future. Most said planet-friendly fashion. With this in mind, the IET designed a sustainable backpack. Many backpacks are made from materials like plastic that can take hundreds of years to break down once they are thrown away.

The IET worked with a fashion brand and a company that makes a leather-like material from plant waste to create the backpack. It is biodegradable, which means every part of it—except the zippers, which can be cut out and reused—can be composted. The natural materials take eight months to break down.

AMAZING INVENTION

A clay structure that cools rooms


The Nave on a wall

Designer Yael Issacharov has developed an air conditioner that works without electricity. The Nave is made of hollow terra cotta and filled with water. The water flows through it and evaporates—a process that absorbs heat, cooling the unit and the surrounding area.

Issacharov was inspired by a traditional Palestinian container for storing cool drinking water. Users can adjust the Nave's temperature settings as well as its size and shape. It comes in three versions: wall tiles, a freestanding room divider, or a cylinder.

ANDREY ATUCHIN; HYPE; FRANCESCO M. LUCINI/COURTESY YAEL ISSACHAROV; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2); SHUTTERSTOCK

Photos of the week

Bright sight
A hot-air balloon floats in the Saga International Balloon Fiesta in Japan.

So many spices
Villagers in China shovel hot chili peppers drying in the sun.

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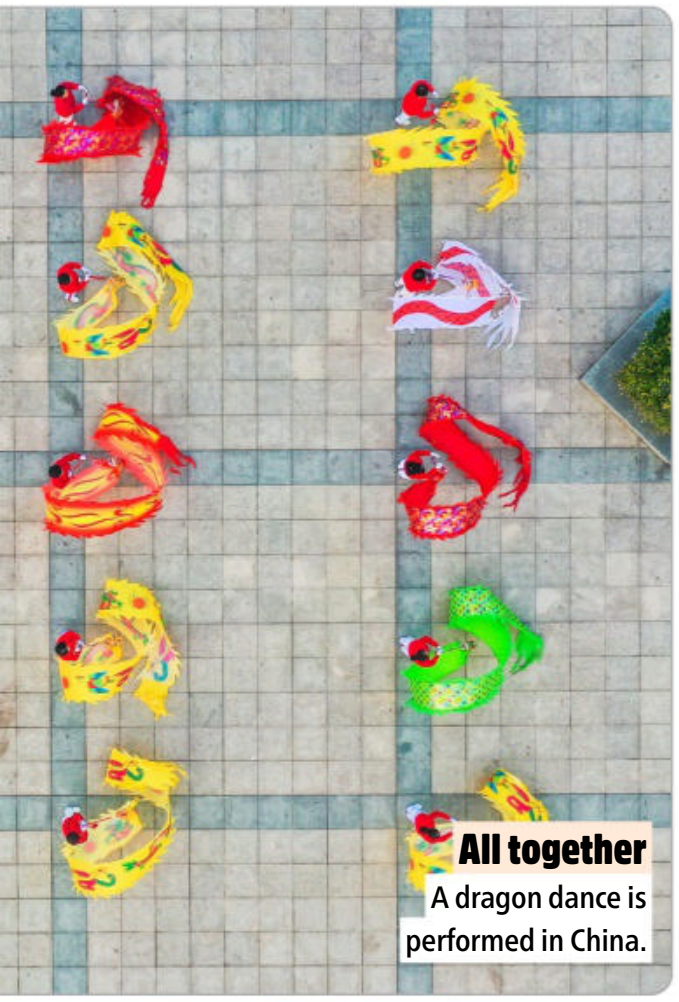
Photos of the week



All together
A dragon dance is performed in China.

Colorful tradition
A girl wears a costume to celebrate the Day of the Dead in Mexico.

Nature's beauty
A heart-shaped lake is surrounded by fall foliage in Canada.

Stunning center
Leif, 13, of Massachusetts snapped this colorful close-up of a flower.

READER PHOTO

Ohio State and Tennessee players

DID YOU KNOW?
The first intercollegiate basketball game on record took place in 1895.

Veterans Day game

To celebrate Veterans Day on November 11, Gonzaga University played Michigan State University on the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier. Gonzaga came back from an early 12-point deficit and battled through a tough final two minutes to win, 64–63.

College basketball season begins

On November 7, the 2022–2023 National College Athletic Association (NCAA) basketball season began. In Division One preseason rankings, the top three women's teams were the University of South Carolina, Stanford University, and the University of Texas. The top three men's teams were the University of North Carolina (UNC), Gonzaga University, and the University of Houston.

In the first week, exciting action took place among Top 25 women's teams. On November 8, 14th-ranked Ohio State University beat fifth-ranked University of Tennessee, 87–75. Ohio State outscored their opponents, 30–13, in the third quarter. By November 14, Tennessee had dropped to 11th in the rankings. That day, they lost a home game to undefeated 12th-ranked Indiana University, 79–67.

Caitlin Clark

South Carolina, the 2021 champions, started the season with two dominating wins, including an 81–56 victory over 17th-ranked Maryland on November 11.

On November 13, fourth-ranked University of Iowa survived a scare on the road against Drake University. The game was tied, 82–82, at the end of the second half, sending it to overtime (OT). Iowa star Caitlin Clark scored five points in OT to help secure a 92–86 win.

Stanford won their first four games, and Texas faced a huge test on the road against fifth-ranked University of Connecticut (UConn) on November 14. UConn won the game, 83–76.

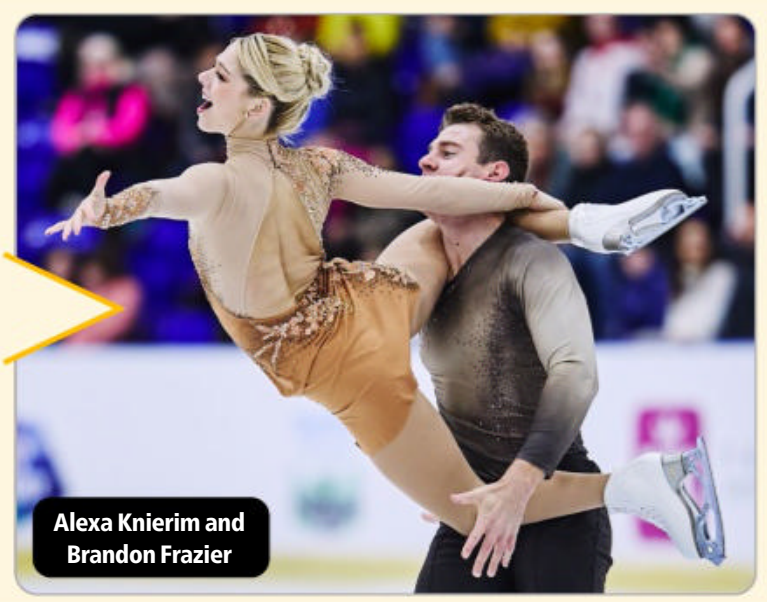
The Top 25 men's teams did not have any major matchups in the first week, but there were memorable games. On November 7, Georgetown University defeated Coppin State, 99–89 in OT, breaking a 21-game losing streak.

One fun highlight of the week was the Brew City Battle on November 11. For the first time, a basketball court was set up at American Family Field in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, home of the Milwaukee Brewers of Major League Baseball. In the battle, the University of Wisconsin men's team beat Kansas State University, 60–50, while the Wisconsin women lost to Kansas State, 63–77. It was the 1,000th win in the history of the Kansas State women's program.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

FIGURE SKATING

American figure skating pair Alexa Knierim and Brandon Frazier finished in first at the Grand Prix England event on November 12. With the win, they qualified for the Grand Prix Final in December, the first US pair to do so since 2015. In women's singles, Isabeau Levito, age 15, placed second in her competition and is expected to become the youngest American to qualify for the Grand Prix Final since 2007.



Alexa Knierim and Brandon Frazier

MEN'S BASKETBALL

On November 13, Philadelphia 76ers center Joel Embiid scored 59 points and had 11 rebounds, eight assists, and seven blocked shots. He is the first player in NBA history to record at least 50 points, 10 rebounds, five assists, and five blocks in a game.

SITTING VOLLEYBALL

The US women won bronze at the Sitting Volleyball World Championships on November 11. Sitting volleyball is played by athletes with a disability.

FUN FACT
When the governing body of US soccer was founded in 1913, it was called the United States Football Association.

The US Men's National Team

US roster for soccer World Cup is set

On November 9, the US Men's National Team (USMNT) revealed its roster for the FIFA World Cup, the biggest tournament in international soccer. The team includes 26 players with an average age of 25.5, making the Americans the youngest squad in this year's World Cup. It is also the second-youngest team in USMNT history.

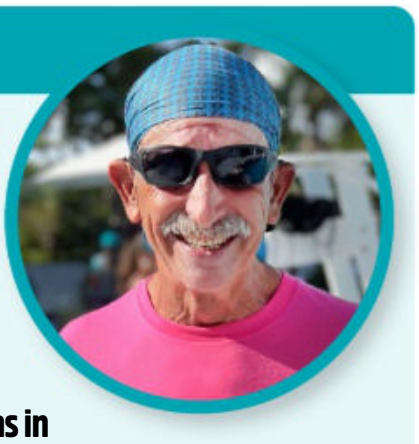
The World Cup, which begins on November 20 in Qatar, takes place every four years. The US team was eliminated in the round of 16 in 2014 and did not qualify to play in 2018. There is excitement that they are back, but they are also under pressure to prove themselves.

A total of 32 teams participate in the World Cup, and they are split into eight groups of four. The US is in a group with England, Iran, and Wales. Teams compete within their groups to start, and England is expected to be the toughest challenge for the Americans in that stage. The two teams with the most points in each group advance to the next round, and the US and England are expected to make the cut.

The members of the USMNT usually play for clubs in the US and Europe. Some of the stars to watch will be forwards Christian Pulisic and Gio Reyna, midfielder Weston McKennie, and defender Sergiño Dest. The head coach is Gregg Berhalter. Two players he notably left off the World Cup roster were goalkeeper Zack Steffen and striker Ricardo Pepi. This came as a surprise to many fans, since they both played major roles in helping the US qualify for the tournament.

The USMNT will play Wales in its opening World Cup match on November 21.

COACH OF THE WEEK



Coach's Name: **Robert Strauss**

Team: **Swim Gym Swim Team**

"He is the greatest and pushes us to be the best. He makes practices fun because he gets everyone on the team to do relays. He is always super excited and passionate on the pool deck. He is also our grandpa. He was in the 1972 Olympics in Munich, Germany, and swam for Mexico. He has taught us everything we know about swimming. He has so much knowledge, and it seems like it is never-ending." Vera and Siena, 11, Florida

To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to *hello@theweekjunior.com.* Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Sam Meza

AGE: 21 SPORT: SOCCER
TEAM: UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Kick start My family has always been super immersed in soccer. I would always play in the front yard, and my mom saw the love I had for the sport and put me in recreational soccer. I was very shy, so it was really hard for me. In the games, I would be crying as I was running up and down the field, but I stuck it out and got used to it.

Special squad I started playing for the US Women's National Team at the U-15 team level, and I'm currently on the U-23s. The team has taken me to so many different places, including China and different parts of Europe.

Power player I'm really small compared to everybody on my team, but it doesn't take away from my aggressiveness and energy on the field. My coach calls me Mighty Mouse.

Group effort In a team sport, it's helpful to have like-minded teammates. Handling the pressure of a game is a lot about leaning on them.

Tough times I am super hard on myself and an emotional person. If my team lost or I had a bad game, I used to dwell on it. It's OK to be upset and critique yourself, but you also have to be resilient and move on. Positivity carries you a long way.

Big goals I aspire to play for the US Women's National Team, the Mexican national team (I am of Mexican descent), the National Women's Soccer League, or to play overseas.

Her advice Enjoying a sport is so important. I never worried about getting scouted, making a national team, or even going to college. That helped me to focus on what I love and getting better at it.

USMNT; UNC; GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3); AP

FUN FACT
The average person spends about one quarter to one third of their life sleeping.

Slumberland

A dreamy adventure film

In *Slumberland*, a young girl coping with grief travels to a special world every time she goes to sleep.

A fantasy world where dreams take place is the backdrop for the new film *Slumberland*. It follows a young girl as she seeks a way to overcome sadness. It is now streaming on Netflix.

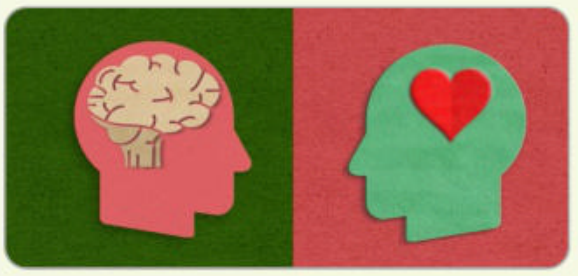
Elements of *Slumberland*'s plot and characters were inspired by the 1900s comic strip *Little Nemo in Slumberland* by Winsor McCay. In the movie, Nemo (played by Marlow Barkley) lives with her dad, a lighthouse keeper who tells her stories about Slumberland, a world of dreams and nightmares. After her dad is lost at sea, she finds a map of Slumberland among his belongings. Thinking she may be able to find him there, she visits the world in her sleep and meets Flip (*Aquaman* star Jason Momoa), a quirky outlaw who acts as her guide.

Jason Momoa

Nemo and Flip's adventures take them through other people's dreams. At one point, they ride a giant goose through mountains. Scenes like that were shot in front of a green screen, which was later covered with a digital background. Barkley told *The Week Junior* she liked using her imagination in the process. "I got to paint a picture in my mind about what I thought the screen would look like," she said.

Slumberland is Barkley's first film, and she said she was drawn to her character for a big reason: "I love Nemo's heart!" She also connected to some of the girl's struggles. "As a kid, sometimes it's hard to get adults to take your feelings seriously," she said. Barkley added that Nemo wants to believe she is fearless and can solve her own problems, "but it's when she faces her fear and loss that she truly shows courage. I hope people can use Nemo as an inspiration to be brave during tough times."

3 facts about dreams



State of mind

During sleep, the brain switches between two cycles: rapid-eye movement (REM) and non-REM. In REM, the body is in a temporary state of paralysis and several areas of the brain are active. Dreams are most vivid at this time.

Brain benefits

Dreams can help people process memories, cope with difficult emotions, and solve problems. In one study, nappers who achieved REM sleep could better judge facial expressions when they woke compared to those who hadn't dreamed.

An octopus

Fellow dreamers

Studies have shown that some birds, dogs, cats, and reptiles experience dream-like activity in their sleep. A 2021 study found that even octopuses dream, and their skin changes while they're doing it.

DID YOU KNOW?
David Beckham is a co-owner of the Major League Soccer club Inter Miami CF.

David Beckham and a player in *Save Our Squad with David Beckham*

Star helps a team in new series

David Beckham, a famous retired soccer star, is sharing sports and life lessons with kids in the new Disney+ documentary series *Save Our Squad with David Beckham*. The show follows along as he helps mentor the Westward Boys, a struggling under-14 soccer team in England, UK.

Beckham is a former captain of England's soccer team and played for many top clubs around the world. In 2007, he signed with the LA Galaxy of Major League Soccer (MLS) and gave soccer in the US a boost. He is well known for precision passing and the bend of his free kicks.

Growing up, Beckham played in the Echo Premier League. The Westward Boys play in the same league, which instantly connected him and the players. When they meet, the team had not won a match for nearly a year and risked being relegated (forced to a lower-caliber division). He spent time with players on and off the field. Gio, one of the boys, told *The Week Junior*, "He didn't act like he was bigger than any of us."

Orlando, another player, said the star helped him and his teammates find confidence. "If he can believe in us, we have to believe in ourselves," he said. He hopes young people who watch the series will be inspired by the squad's growth over the season. "Whatever team they are on, they can use what we've done to help *their* team," he said.

MOVIE NIGHT

If you're looking for a film to watch with family or friends, consider this pick of the week.

The Boxtrolls (2014) PG

Available to rent or buy on all major platforms

This stop-motion film is from the creators of *Coraline* and *Paranorman*. It is set in the town of Cheesebridge, where humans live aboveground and Boxtrolls live below. Boxtrolls are thought to be monsters, but they are actually kind and gentle. About 10 years ago, an orphan boy named Eggs wandered into their community and they have been raising him ever since. At night, he and the Boxtrolls collect the town's trash and turn it into incredible inventions. They are careful not to be seen by humans, especially evil Archibald Snatcher who wants to get rid of them. When Eggs's parental figure is captured, Eggs ventures out of hiding to save him and finds help in a girl from town named Winnie. Can the pair stop Snatcher and show everyone the true nature of the Boxtrolls?

THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST

Star Trek: Prodigy
(Paramount+)

New episodes of this animated sci-fi series are out now. The young aliens are still searching for a better future aboard a spaceship they found, and will be joined by characters that include the trouble-causing space captain Thadiun Okona from *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.

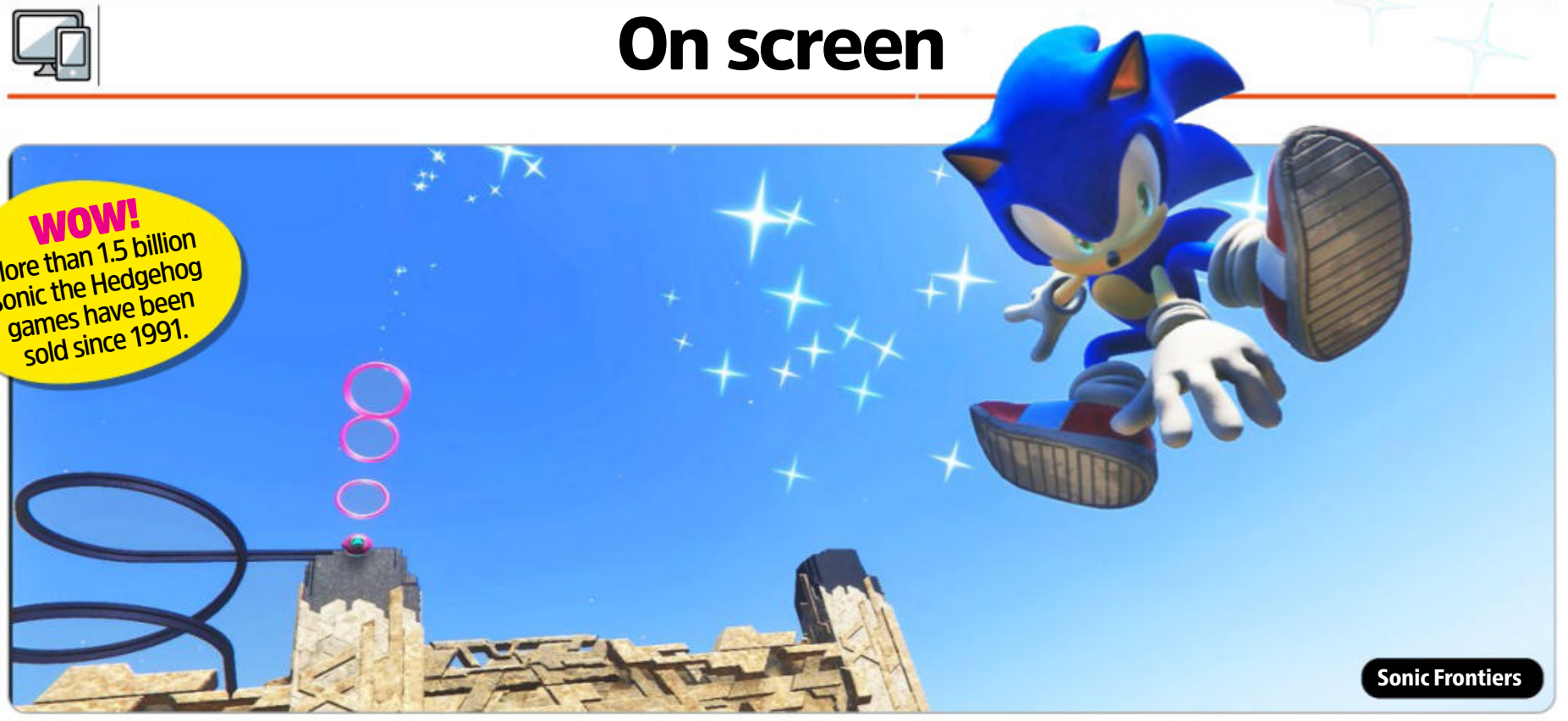
Tutankhamun: Allies and Enemies
(PBS) November 23 at 8 pm ET

It has been 100 years since archaeologists (scientists who study objects left by people long ago) opened the tomb of Tutankhamun, a boy who became ruler of Egypt in 1323 BCE. This first episode of a two-part special visits the tomb and explores Tut's life and mysterious death.

Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade
(NBC) November 24 at 9 am

The annual parade will travel through New York City for its 96th year. Watch the three-hour televised special to catch the new Diary of a Wimpy Kid and Stuart the Minion balloons, as well as floats, musical performances, school marching bands, and more.

JAMES TURNER/DISNEY+; NICKELODEON/PARAMOUNT+; COURTESY OF SOURA FILMS; GETTY IMAGES; FOCUS FEATURES; ON LEFT PAGE: NETFLIX; GETTY IMAGES (4)



Sonic Frontiers

Play Sonic like never before

Sonic Frontiers is the latest platforming adventure game starring the ultra-fast blue hedgehog. It was recently released for the Nintendo Switch, PlayStation systems, Xbox platforms, and PC.

The main Sonic video game series launched more than 30 years ago. It is known for having different levels filled with wild, fast-paced courses. Frontiers is the 21st game in that series. New games often add locations and characters to the Sonic universe, and some have also introduced fresh gameplay styles. Frontiers does it all and features the franchise's first open world, giving gamers the ability to move around more than in past releases.

When the game starts, Sonic's enemy, Dr. Eggman, finds an object he believes will help him discover ancient relics on a mysterious island. The island, however, sends Dr. Eggman through a wormhole into a strange dimension called Cyber Space. The same thing happens to Sonic and his pals Tails, Knuckles, and Amy Rose as they're on their way to investigate the disappearance of powerful Chaos Emeralds.

After Sonic escapes Cyber Space, he lands on the Starfall Islands. While there, he must find the Chaos Emeralds, save his friends, and defeat Dr. Eggman. There are five Starfall Islands, and Sonic has to complete tasks and challenges to reveal more of each one. He'll get help from an artificial intelligence guide. As the maps of the islands grow clearer, Sonic can freely explore each world by grinding on rails, a move that is a throwback to classic Sonic games.

It may be fun to play Frontiers with longtime fans of the franchise. They will recognize re-creations of classic stages from the first games, linking the new era with the beloved originals.

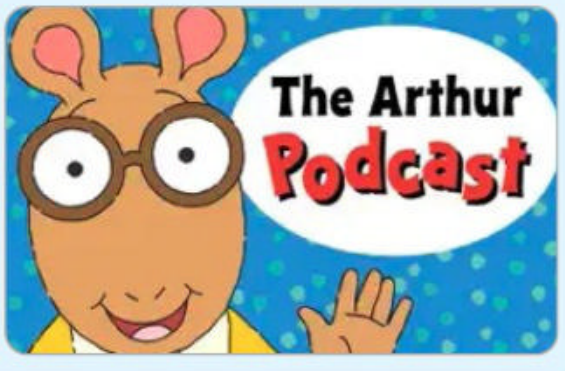
Sonic the Hedgehog

PODCAST OF THE WEEK

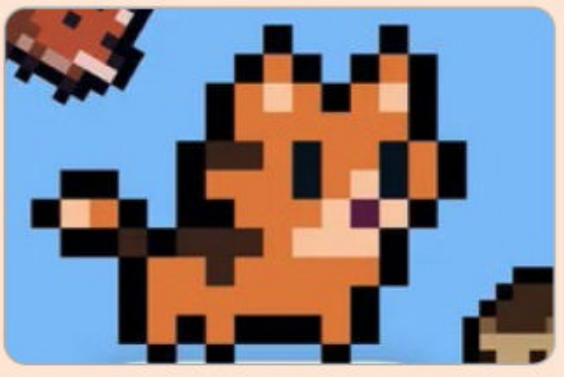
ARTHUR

PBS Kids Video App, Apple Podcasts, Spotify

Arthur, the animated TV series based on the books by Marc Brown, has been adapted into this new podcast. In each episode, the lovable third grader and aardvark retells his adventures. Listeners can go to the podcast's main site to submit voice messages that may be included in future episodes.



APP OF THE WEEK



PIXEL PALS

Apple App Store

With this new app, you can add an animated virtual pet to the home or lock screen of an iPhone or iPad. The customizable options include a dog, hedgehog, or parrot. You can decide if a pal runs, sleeps, or chills, and with just a few taps, you can feed it or play with it, too.

WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

ATLAS OBSCURA

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Obscura

The world is full of amazing places, and this site has an online interactive map that highlights more than 24,000 of them. Click around on pinpoints and discover locations such as a pizzeria on a volcano in Guatemala and an observatory in Germany that is modeled after a *Star Wars* robot.

SONIC TEAM (2); PBS KIDS POD SQUAD; CHRISTIAN SELIG; ATLAS OBSCURA

OUR NOVEMBER BOOK CLUB PICK

Mihi Ever After

By Tae Keller, illustrated by Geraldine Rodríguez

(Henry Holt and Co.)

During recess, Mihi likes pretending to be a princess. Her friend thinks fourth graders are too old to play make-believe. Wanting to be like Snow White, Mihi climbs an apple tree anyway. She gets in trouble with the playground monitor and is sent to the library. There, she meets Savannah and Reese, two girls who also like princess stories. They take candy from the librarian's refrigerator. After eating it, the inside of the refrigerator turns into a rainbow forest. They step into the forest and learn that they are in the Rainbow Realm, a magical place. They see Cinderella's mice, who tell them that they can train to be princesses and could get their own fairy tale. But everything is not what it seems. When Mihi realizes they may be trapped there, she will have

WIN A BOOK!

We're giving away one signed copy of *Mihi Ever After.*

For a chance to win, send your name and address to *contests@theweekjunior.com* with Mihi in the subject line. Enter by midnight on December 9. See theweekjunior.com/terms for complete rules.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR YOUR BOOK CLUB

The fantasy adventure story *Mihi Ever After* gives you a lot to think about—and talk over with friends and family who have also read the book. These questions can help get a book club conversation going:

Should kids be allowed to play make-believe as long as they want to?

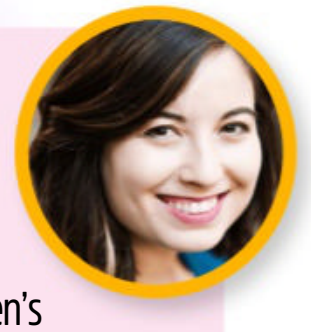
Why is it unfair of Mihi's classmates to tell her that she's not the princess type?

Do you think Mihi is treated differently because she is Korean

JOIN *THE WEEK JUNIOR*'S BOOK CLUB

Watch a special video Tae Keller created for *The Week Junior* and learn more about how our new monthly book club works at kids.theweekjunior.com/bookclub.

Ask the author



Tae Keller won a Newbery Medal, the highest honor in children's literature, in 2021 for her fantasy novel *When You Trap a Tiger*. We spoke to Keller about her book *Mihi Ever After*—the first in a new series she is writing—and more.

Were you like Mihi when you were growing up?

Yes, in the way that I desperately wanted to believe in magic. I even wrote in my journal, "My friends don't believe in magic anymore, but I never want to stop."

Did anyone else inspire the book?

My little sister. I would read her princess stories and she'd want to add an element of chaos, like zombies.

What's your favorite fairy tale?

Jack and the Beanstalk. I write about it in the next book in the series. I love the beanstalk going into the sky and the way Jack discovers a new world.

How would you describe a good friendship?

The best friendships are the ones that allow you to be yourself and celebrate who you are.

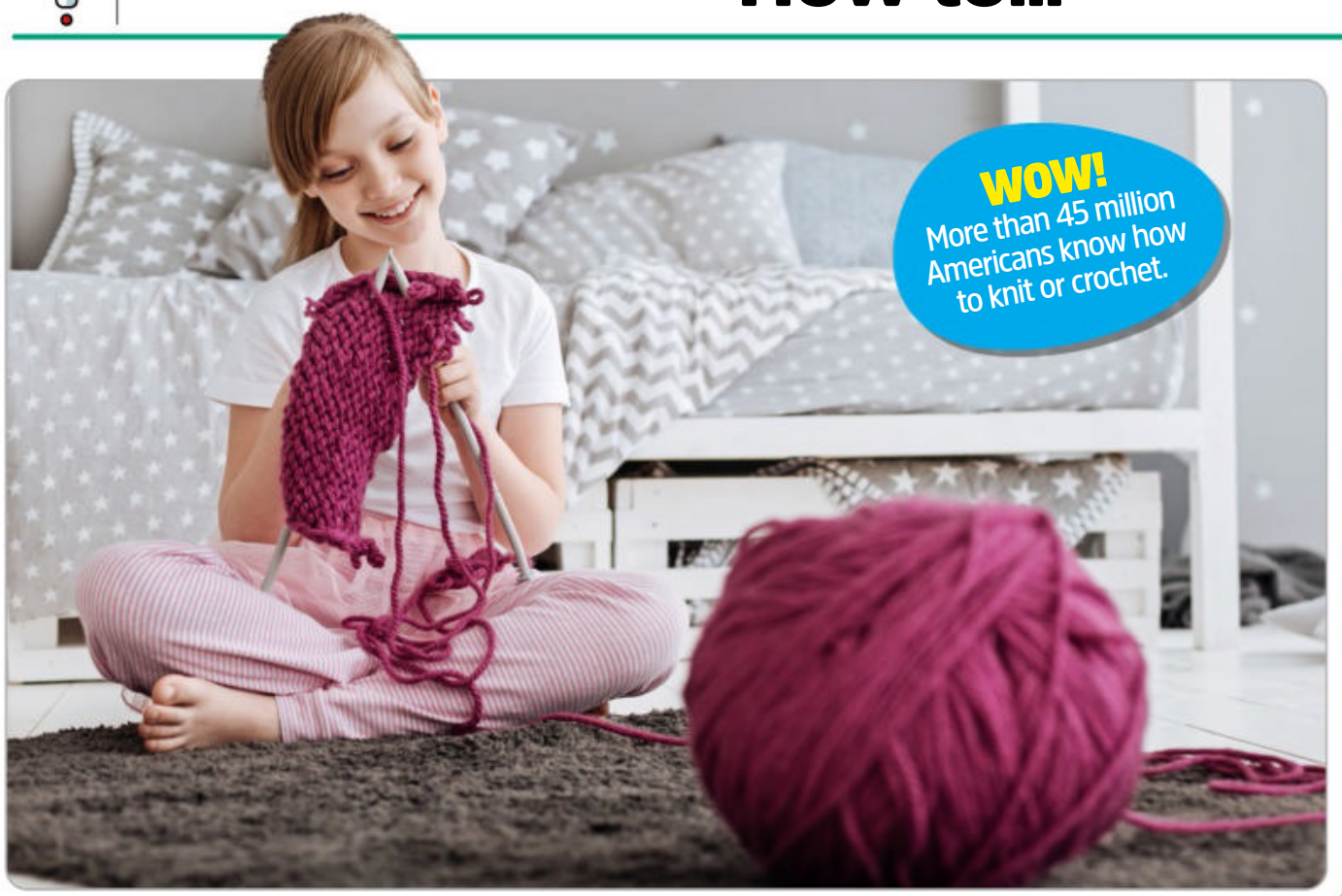
Tell us about the first story you remember writing.

It was a three-page mystery about how gum got stuck to the fur of my stuffed animals.

What's the next book in the series about?

Mihi accidentally tells

BOOK: COURTESY THE PUBLISHER; AUTHOR: COURTESY TAE KELLER; GETTY IMAGES



Give knitting a try

This relaxing activity can help you flex your creative muscles.

Knitting is a craft where you use yarn and needles to create a series of stitches. When you make several rows of stitches, you can create specific patterns to form items like hats, blankets, and scarves. Many people find knitting to be creative and relaxing. Here's how to begin.

Gather supplies

You'll need a ball of yarn and a set of knitting needles. If you have a friend who knits, you may be able to borrow these to start out. If not, most craft stores sell yarn and needles. For your first project, choose a yarn that's marked as "medium weight" and needles that are between sizes 8 and 10.

Get started

All knitting projects start with a step called "casting on," which is how you attach yarn to the needle. Grab the free end of yarn from your ball and create a slip knot. Start by making a small loop of yarn at the end by crossing the loose end over the yarn that's still attached to the ball. Then pull the yarn that's attached to the ball through the hole and pull on the loop to make a knot. Put the loop of yarn through one of the needles and tighten the loop so it's snug.

Continue casting on

Now you need to add additional loops to your needle, which you will later use to build your stitches from. To do this, start with a slip knot on the needle in your right hand. Take the strand of yarn that's attached to the ball and hold it in your left hand. Wrap that strand of yarn around your left thumb from front to back. Slip the needle in your right hand under the yarn that's on the front of your thumb. Keeping the yarn loop on your needle, slip your thumb out and pull the yarn tight so you're left with a loop attached to your needle. To view a video of casting on, go to tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Knitting. Repeat the stitch about 10 times.

Choose a fun color of yarn.

Learn your first stitch

Now that you have a row of loops on your needle, the next step is to add stitches attached to each of these loops. There are hundreds of types of stitches, but a good first one is the knit stitch. If you have a friend or family member who knits, ask them if they will show you how to do it. To view a video of how to make a knit stitch, go to tinyurl.com/TWJUS-KnitStitch. Once you learn how to do the stitch, practice by knitting several rows of it until you have a small section of fabric.

Try a simple project

A good option for your first few projects is making squares for blankets (make several and piece them together) or scarves. To make them, you'll need a pattern with instructions to follow. Yarn.com and knitpicks.com have free patterns you can print out.

4 organizations that provide warmth

Put your new knitting skills to use by donating something you make to help others.

Project Linus

Since 1995, this organization has donated more than 9 million handmade blankets to children in need. Chapters across the US offer volunteer opportunities. (projectlinus.org)

Snuggles Project

People can donate blankets to animal shelters through Snuggle Project. The website includes directions for making different kinds of blankets. (snugglesproject.org)

Magic Yarn Project

This group donates knit caps with special designs like pirate emblems or princess hair to children who have been diagnosed with cancer. One way people can help is by donating extra yarn. (themagicyarnproject.com)

Warm Up America

Volunteers are asked to knit 7-inch-by-9-inch rectangles as their donations. The rectangles are then pieced together to make blankets for senior centers, veterans' homes, and shelters. (warmupamerica.org)

PRACTICE POLITE TABLE MANNERS

With the holiday season here, now is a great time to brush up on your mealtime etiquette. Here are a few things to remember.

1. **Wait for everyone.** When you sit down at a table, don't begin eating until everyone is sitting and any toasts or blessings have been made.
2. **Watch your body language.** Sit straight in your chair with both feet on the floor. Avoid slouching or resting your elbows on the table. Also, avoid reaching across the table for dishes. Instead, ask someone to pass the dish to you.
3. **Consider utensils.** If you've been asked to set the table, remember that the fork goes on the left of the plate and the knife goes on the right. If you sit down to a place setting with more than one set of forks and knives, the general rule is to use the ones on the outside first to eat the appetizer, soup, or salad, and use the ones closest to the plate for the main course.

COMFORT FOOD
About 63% of people said in a survey that a grilled cheese is the best sandwich to have with soup.

WARNING!
Ask an adult's permission before using the stove.

Make a quick tortellini soup

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 5 ounces baby kale (about 4 cups)
- 32-ounce carton of tomato soup
- 15-ounce can of chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 10-ounce package of cheese tortellini or other preferred tortellini flavor
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese, for topping
- Crusty Italian bread, for serving

Instructions

1. Heat olive oil in a large pot over medium-high heat. Add the kale and toss until wilted, about 2 minutes.
2. Add the tomato soup and 1 cup water and bring the mixture to a simmer.
3. Stir in the chickpeas, then add the tortellini and cook until tender, about 6 minutes for fresh tortellini and 12 for dry. (This may be a bit longer than the package directions for cooking in boiling water.) Season with salt and pepper to taste.
4. Divide soup among bowls. Top with Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese, and serve with crusty bread. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

ECO TIP OF THE WEEK

HOST A LEFTOVER PIE PARTY

From apple to sweet potato, pies are a classic Thanksgiving dessert. But sometimes, when there's so much food, these delicious pies don't get eaten. If that's the case in your family, one way to make sure they don't go to waste is to host a leftover pie party. Ask friends or neighbors to come over after Thanksgiving and bring any leftover pies with them. With an adult's help, cut the pies into small slices and put them onto plates. Encourage everyone to try different types of pie. Not only will this gathering help eliminate food waste, but it's also a great way to spend time with people you may not have been able to visit on Thanksgiving.

ERICA CLARK FOR STONE KITCHEN CREATIVE; GETTY IMAGES (2); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2); PROJECT LINUS; SNUGGLES PROJECT; MAGIC YARN PROJECT; WARM UP AMERICA

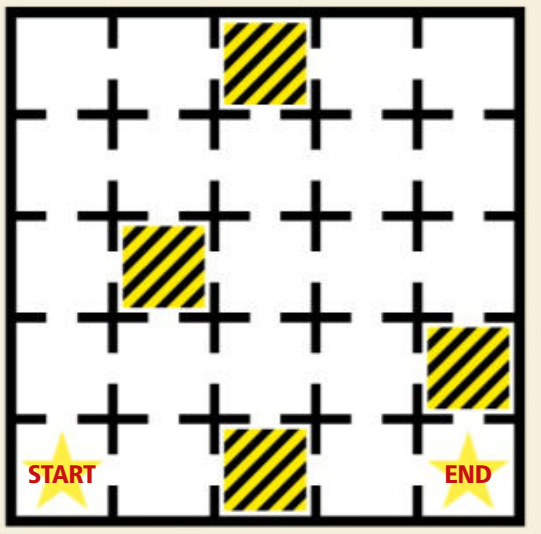
Word ladder

To change the word WIND into the word FARM, use each clue to fill in a word that is only one letter different from the word before it. If you get stuck, try solving from the bottom up.

	W I N D
Item that Hogwarts students buy at Ollivanders ▶	
Musical group ▶	
Having a hairless head ▶	
Dance party at the king's palace ▶	
Mouth part for a duck or platypus ▶	
_____ in the blanks ▶	
Movies and photos used to be shot on this ▶	
Description of some beds and pillows ▶	
	F A R M

DO NOT ENTER

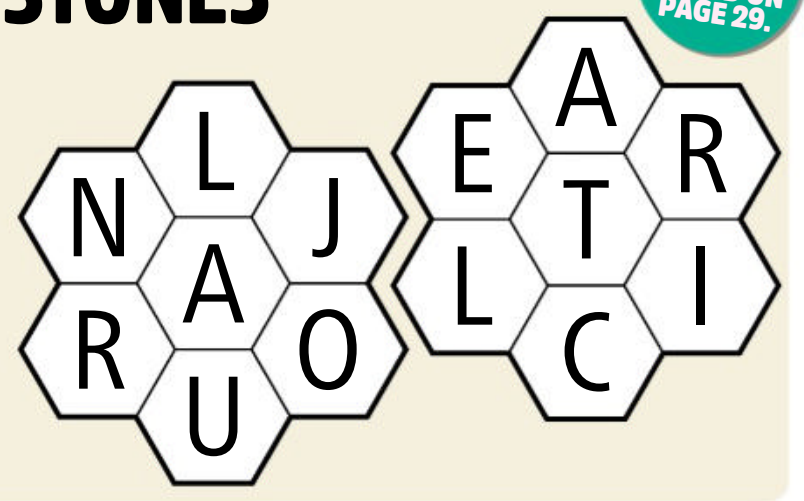
Draw one continuous path from START to END that goes through every box except the ones containing obstacles. Your path may not cross itself, and there is only one solution.



STEPPING STONES

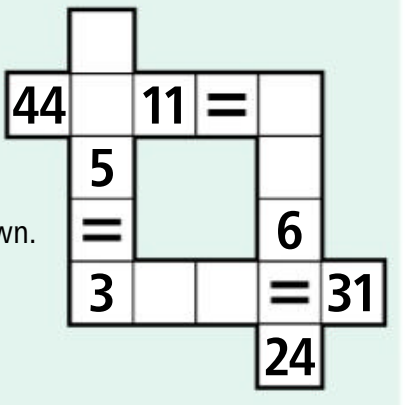
ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

Each figure hides the name of a seven-letter item that people read. To find each one, start anywhere and move in an unbroken path through letters that share a border (no jumping!), using each letter once. (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)



Crossmath

Fill each empty box with a number or a mathematical symbol (+, −, ×, or ÷) to complete the equations across and down. A symbol can be used more than once.



Spot the difference

These two pictures of cacti in bloom appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?

PUZZLES BY PUZZABILITY

Stepping stones hint: The second word begins with A.

That's unbelievable!

From left: Hirokazu Tanaka, Hirokazu Tanaka, Hirokazu Tanaka...

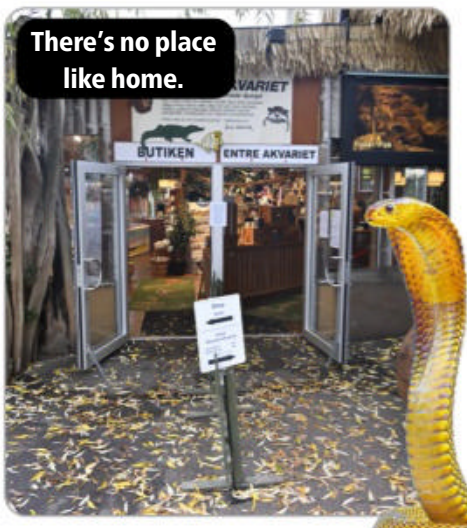
What's in a name? A world record

On October 29, 178 people named Hirokazu Tanaka sat together in a theater in Tokyo, Japan, to earn a Guinness World Records title for the largest gathering of people with the same name. Attendees ranged from an 80-year-old man to a 3-year-old toddler, all wearing identical shirts with their name on them. The Tanakas beat the previous record, set in 2005, when 164 people named Martha Stewart appeared on the set of the TV show *Martha!* "I'm just grateful to my parents," said one Hirokazu Tanaka.

Dog walks like a human

When Dexter the spaniel goes for a walk, he attracts a lot of attention. Instead of trotting along on four legs, this dog from Colorado strolls around on two. When Dexter was a puppy, he injured his front legs and was given a special doggie wheelchair. But one day his owner, Kentee, noticed that Dexter had gotten out of the wheelchair. She found him standing up on his two back legs, and Dexter has been walking that way ever since.

Dexter (left) and Kentee



There's no place like home.

Home sssweet home

An escaped king cobra has returned to his enclosure in a Swedish zoo. The 7-foot snake, named Sir Vass, escaped in late October and hid inside the walls. Staff nicknamed him Houdini, after a famous escape artist from the 1920s. But after a week, life on the run "was too stressful for Houdini," a museum official said, so he slithered back home.

Real or fake?

Is this one lucky horse shoe?

Stylish streetwear for stallions

They're cool, comfortable, ideal for running—and just for horses. Horse Kicks are the latest brand of sneakers, created for hooves by shoe designer Marcus Floyd. Looking to popular sports brands like Nike and Adidas for inspiration, the Kentucky designer uses his shoe-making skills to create unique hoof-wear. He plans to sell the sneakers at a charity event, starting at $1,200 per shoe. What do you think? Is it true, or are we foaling you?*

The cube collector

A colossal collection of Rubik's Cubes

When Florian Kastenmeier of Germany was clearing out his attic 16 years ago, he discovered a colorful little puzzle—a Rubik's Cube. The puzzles became a big craze 40 years ago, and 450 million of them have been sold since. Kastenmeier felt compelled to solve the puzzle and soon developed a passion for collecting them. Today he owns 1,519 and has been awarded the Guinness World Records title for the largest collection of rotating puzzles in the world. Now Kastenmeier has one final puzzle to solve: where to keep them all.

*Real Floyd's collection of horse shoes went on sale at the Sneaker Ball Lex charity event on November 12. "Horses are athletes as well," he said, and they "deserve the same treatment we get."

GETTY IMAGES (2); DAVID CLIFFORD/THE GUARDIAN; AP; FLORIAN KASTENMEIER; HORSE KICKS; SHUTTERSTOCK; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3)

Your turn

Editor's note

Election 2022 certainly has been exciting to follow (pages 2 and 4)! The fact that we still don't know all the winners a week after Election Day shows how close some races were. One race—to elect a US senator from Georgia—won't be decided until December. No matter how that vote turns out, we know that the US Senate (one half of Congress) will be controlled by the Democrats. Although the question of which party will control the House of Representatives (other half of Congress) wasn't officially answered when *The Week Junior* went to press on November 15, Republicans were predicted to win a majority of seats. If that happens, Congress will be divided, with one party in charge of each half. We'll see how well lawmakers can work together to benefit the nation. I'm hopeful they can compromise on issues they disagree on. How about you?

Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief

Juliet, 11, Virginia

Providing help to the homeless

"I wanted to help people who are homeless, so I created Blessing Bags. These are zip-top bags that I fill with a pair of socks, a comb, soap, tissues, granola bars, a toothbrush set, and water. When I give them to people in need, I always feel really good afterward. By a little or a lot, I know I'm helping, and that makes a difference!"

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

JOKE OF THE WEEK

What would happen if your nose grew to be 12 inches long?

It would be a foot.

CHARITY OF THE WEEK

Pajama Program

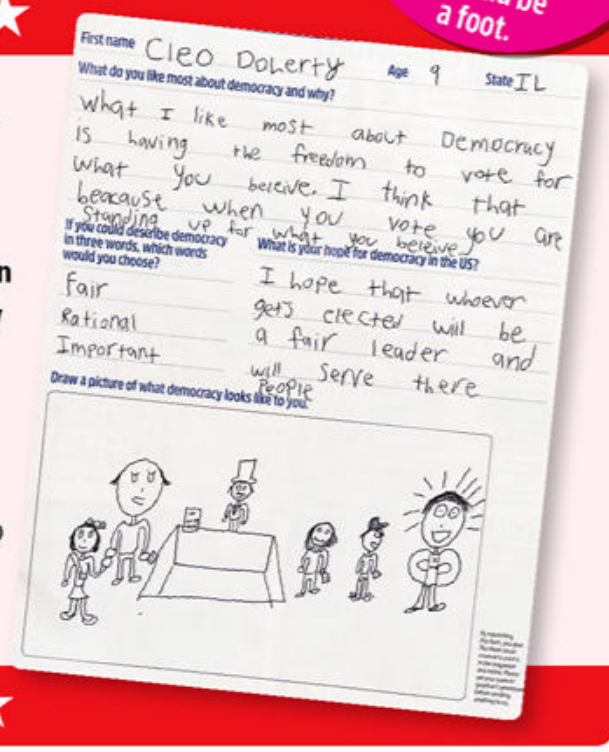
This organization's goal is to give children a comforting bedtime. In addition to providing pajamas and books to children in need across the US and in Puerto Rico, it also trains preschool educators in supporting their students' sleep needs. Since 2001, it has given away more than 7.5 million pairs of pajamas. Find out more at pajamaprogram.org.

Pajama Program
Good Nights Are Good Days

DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

Celebrating our democracy

A founding principle of the United States is that it's a democracy—meaning that citizens hold the power to elect the people who govern them. As a reader of *The Week Junior*, you may have opinions about America's democratic process. If so, we want to hear them! Go to kids.theweekjunior.com/activities to download a form, like the one at right. Fill it out, then have an adult email it to us at *hello@theweekjunior.com*. We'll feature some of the submissions on this page in future issues.


First name Cleo Doherty Age 9 State IL
What do you like most about democracy and why?
What I like most about Democracy is having the freedom to vote for what you believe. I think that because when you vote you are standing up for what you believe
If you could describe democracy in three words, which words would you choose?
Fair
Rational
Important
What is your hope for democracy in the US?
I hope that whoever gets elected will be a fair leader and will serve there People
Draw a picture of what democracy looks like to you.

THE WEEK Junior **IT'S YOUR TURN** Email your news, views, and photos to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

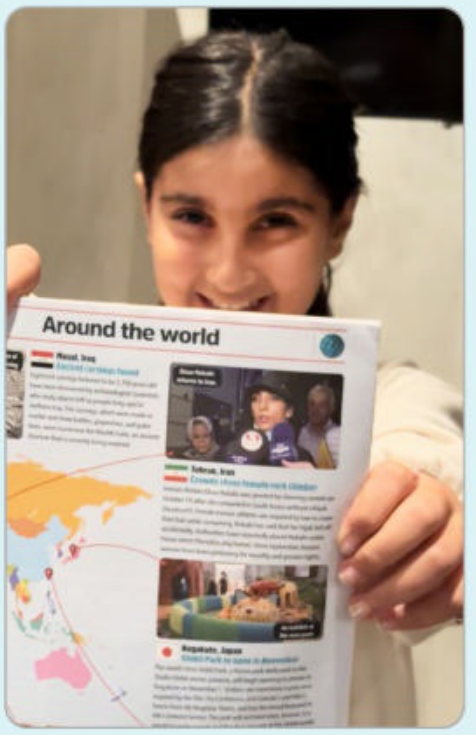
Your turn

YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Send them to us at *hello@theweekjunior.com*, along with anything you'd like to tell us about what's in the photo.

"We made our version of the cupcake blobs. We made a cake instead of cupcakes, and we didn't have green candy melts so we used red to make it bloody." Lev, 9, New Jersey

"I was so excited to read about my family's home country, Iran!" Allegra, 10, California



"I had so much fun baking this apple pull-apart bread." Simona, 9, Kentucky

Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Mr. Cornell**

School: **Greenwich Country Day School**

"Mr. Cornell is an awesome teacher. He makes learning in class fun, and he's really funny. He helped my classmates and me start middle school in really great ways. He took the time to make sure everyone felt happy and comfortable. For example, he took time to explain our schedules and how everything in middle school works."

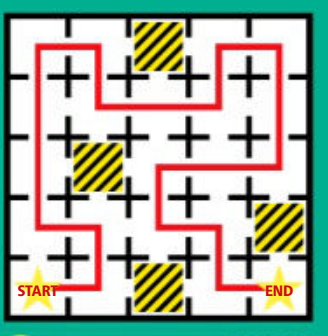
Clara, 12, Connecticut

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week! Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

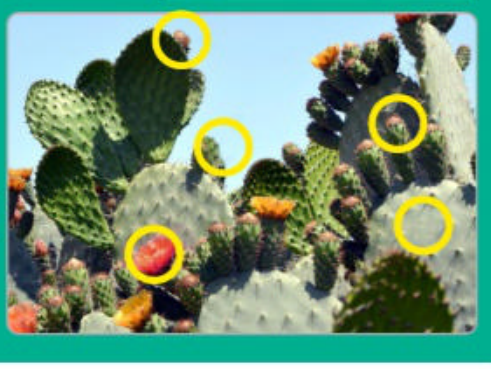
Puzzle answers (from page 26)

Word ladder

wind
wand
band
bald
ball
bill
fill
film
firm
farm



Stepping stones
journal, article



		15				
44	÷	11	=	4		
5				×		
=				6		
3	+	28	=	31		
				24		

Quiz answers (from page 30)

1 b) Coconut **2** Soccer **3** True **4** c) *Li'l Folks* **5** Snake **6** c) Sustainable **7** a) Dr. Eggman **8** 36 **9** b) Chicago **10** False. They do not eat or drink during hibernation. **11** a) Italy **12** c) Snow White **13** True **14** b) The US **15** 178

POPJAM

Sign up and follow @theweekjuniorus on PopJam, a social media platform for kids 7–12. Ask an adult to download the app from iTunes or Google Play.

We asked: What is your favorite song and why?

"I like 'Golden Hour' because I love the beat."

"I love all songs and music, so I'm stumped on this one."

"I love 'Good 4 U' by Olivia Rodrigo. It's so upbeat and fun."

"I really like rock music!"

In the big debate, we asked you: Is pumpkin pie better than apple pie?

"Yes, I love the texture of pumpkin pie!"

"Apple, apple all day!"

"Yes. When my uncle makes it."

"No! Apple pie is much better."

"They are both equal to me."

Now tell us: What is one way you try to help the environment?

GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.

Quiz of the week

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 Which fruit does the head of a maned sloth look like?

a) Pineapple b) Coconut c) Papaya

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

2 In *Save Our Squad with David Beckham*, the retired athlete mentors young players in what sport?

3 True or false? A study by researchers in the UK proves that goldfish have a memory.

True ☐ False ☐

4 What was the first name for the comic strip *Peanuts*?

a) *Our Gang* b) *Small Potatoes* c) *Li'l Folks*

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

5 What type of animal returned to its enclosure at a Swedish zoo after escaping?

6 According to a new study, what do most young people want their clothing to be in the future?

a) Cool b) Free c) Sustainable

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

7 Who is Sonic's enemy in the video game Sonic Frontiers?

a) Dr. Eggman b) Mr. Cheesehead

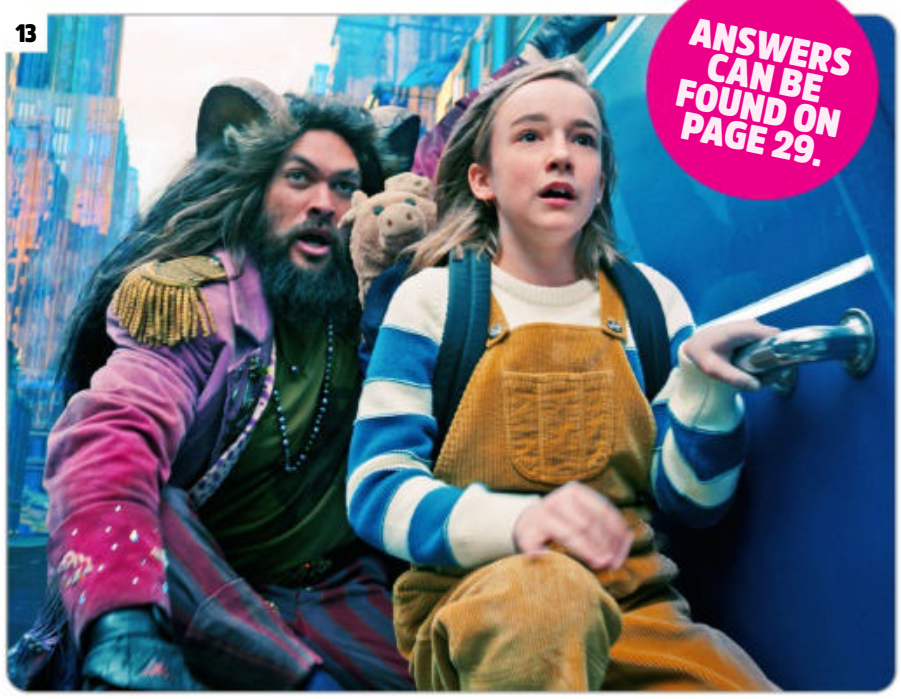
c) Princess Bunlady

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

8 How many US states elected governors this month?

7

2


13

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

10

4

9 Most of the stories written by Barbara Binns take place in what US city?

a) Tuskegee

b) Chicago

c) Memphis

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

10 True or false? During hibernation, grizzly bears and black bears wake up to eat and drink.

True ☐ False ☐

11 In which country did archaeologists recently discover a collection of ancient Etruscan and Roman statues?

a) Italy b) Greece c) Israel

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

12 In *Mihi Ever After*, Mihi climbs an apple tree to be like which princess?

a) Rapunzel b) Merida

c) Snow White

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

13 True or false? In the movie *Slumberland*, the characters Nemo and Flip travel through other people's dreams.

True ☐ False ☐

14 Which country has the youngest squad participating in this year's FIFA World Cup?

a) Iran b) The US c) England

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

15 How many people named Hirokazu Tanaka gathered to set a world record?

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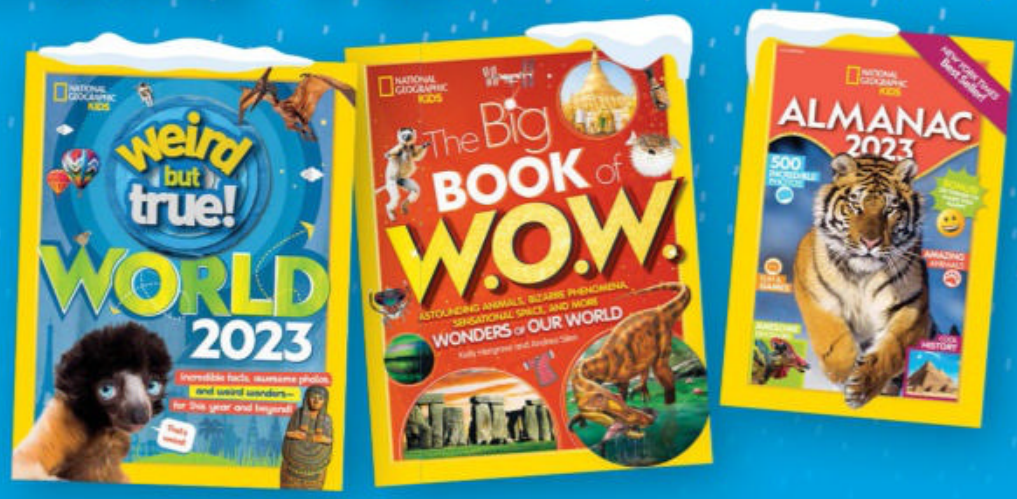

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